

Department of Neighborhoods—P-Patch Community Gardening Program
2008 Parks and Green Spaces Levy -- Strategic Framework for Community Garden and P-Patches

Summary of Strategic Framework

The P-Patch program staff and management developed a two step framework for identifying priority areas for levy funded P-Patch community garden development. The first step analyzes and prioritizes neighborhood areas based on a set of attributes. The second step analyzes possible sites based on a set of criteria for acquiring, developing and/or managing the specific sites.

Step One: Establishing Neighborhood Priorities. Using “Community Reporting Areas”, P-Patch program developed a framework of seven key neighborhood-level attributes. They are divided into two categories: Highest Priority and High Priority.

Highest Priorities -- 2 points:

1. Area is currently underserved by P-Patch program (gardening space in relation to population density and/or existing P-Patch waitlists).
2. Area is a neighborhood specifically called out in the Parks Levy (namely Queen Anne, Ballard, West Seattle, and Rainier Valley).
3. Area has relatively high percentages of historically and currently underserved populations, including low-income, seniors, immigrants and refugees.
4. Area has feasible site(s) already identified and community organizing in place.

Higher Priorities -- 1 point:

5. Area contains designated urban village(s) under the Seattle Comprehensive Plan.
6. Area aligns with Mayoral revitalization focus on Southeast Seattle and South Park.
7. Area has relatively limited food access as documented by the Sound Food Report.

Tools Used to Establish Neighborhood Priorities. The following data sources were used in conjunction with the framework:

- Census Maps showing:
 - P-Patch Gardens in relation to Population Density
 - Language Groupings: Spanish, Vietnamese, E. African, etc.
 - Households with 200% of Poverty Level and Below
 - Affordable housing and senior housing locations
- P-Patch Community Gardening Program database and waitlists
- Sound Food Report: a relatively recent UW analysis of food deserts in the city.

Step Two: Analysis of Candidate Sites. Staff developed a set of attributes to assess site feasibility in the priority areas. This assessment tool uses 10 criteria, ascribing one point for each:

1. Sun Exposure: full sun in residential area/ best available in dense urban area
2. Access/Terrain: flat terrain and material drop off
3. Size:
 - 4,000sf or greater in residential areas (for example SF 5000+ zones);
 - 2,000sf minimum in denser areas
 - Number of residents impacted
 - Best available in high priority urban zones
4. Water (existing source versus need for meter)
5. Innovative programming already exists or is in development to address community needs
6. Expansion of existing P-Patch
7. Land Ownership (publicly owned)
8. Security (neighbors able to view site)

Department of Neighborhoods—P-Patch Community Gardening Program
2008 Parks and Green Spaces Levy -- Strategic Framework for Community Garden and P-Patches

9. Capacity to serve neighborhood priority (site may be on border of priority neighborhood)
10. Ambiance (busy street, windy)

Summary of Proposed Projects for 2009-10:

- 21 neighborhood areas were identified as priorities under the Strategic Framework
- 17 priority neighborhood areas have identified projects or potential projects
- Estimated costs for identified projects: \$1 million dollars.

Community Impact 2009-10

New acreage in food production added: 2 acres

Number of new garden plots added: 300

New gardeners added: 300

Strategic Framework for Community Gardens and P-Patches

With the support from the Levy Oversight Committee, this framework will guide allocations of the remaining Parks and Green Spaces Levy funds for the next three years. Recently, the Mayor and City Council appropriated \$1.0 million of the Levy for community gardens and P-Patches. This front end appropriation recognizes the wait list of over 1,900 families and individuals who are currently waiting for a plot. It also recognizes the growing community need as well as interest in community gardening, local food production, and food security.

Department of Neighborhoods—P-Patch Community Gardening Program
2008 Parks and Green Spaces Levy -- Strategic Framework for Community Garden and P-Patches

Results:

District	Community Reporting Area	Score	2009-2010 Identified Potential Projects
Ballard	Ballard	7	
Ballard	Whittier Heights	7	
Central	Central Area/Squire Park	7	Spring St
Delridge	Highland Park	8	
Delridge	North Delridge	7	
Delridge	Roxhill/Westwood	10	Barton Pump Station Acquisition and Development
East	Capitol Hill	7	John & Summit
Greater Duwamish	North Beacon Hill/Jefferson Park	7	Ferdinand Snoqualmie
Greater Duwamish	South Park	7	Marra Farm Expansion
Lake Union	Cascade/Eastlake	7	Eastlake Expansion*
Lake Union	Fremont	7	Hazel Heights
Lake Union	Wallingford	7	NE 41st & 1st Ave NE
Northwest	Broadview/Bitter Lake	7	Bitter Lake Open Space
Notheast	Ravenna/Bryant	7	
Queen Anne Magnolia	Interbay	7	Dravus Pump Station
Queen Anne Magnolia	Queen Anne	7	
Southeast	Columbia City	10	Hillman Expansion
Southeast	Rainier Beach	10	51st & S. Leo
Southwest	Alki/Admiral	7	
Southwest	West Seattle Junction/Genessee Hill	7	West Seattle Christian

Bolded Neighborhoods do not yet have identified feasible sites and will require additional site exploration.

*Identified projects which serve but are not located in priority neighborhood

Additional Identified Projects:

Three projects that scored highly in site criteria are not in priority neighborhoods. P-Patch hopes to implement these projects because they leverage significant additional resources. They also serve low income and immigrant families and families in low income housing. The projects are:

1) & 2) New Holly Youth and Family garden expansion and John C. Little Park at New Holly and Community Urban Farm at Rainier Vista.

- These sites are match for a \$300,000 USDA Community Food Project Grant submitted by a consortium of public and private agencies.

3) Raised Bed Gardens partnering with three low income housing groups

- P-Patch staff will partner with three low income housing providers who would provide a long term area for their residents to garden. This meets a need to bring gardening to populations for whom transportation to traditional P-Patch community gardens is problematic. These communities may or may not be in identified priority neighborhoods.